

9/11/28

Jack,

As I see it, all
we can do is reply
with a letter to these
folks.

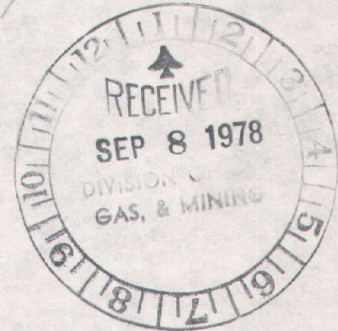
They have no
substantive objection &
are leaning on the
objection of Burnett.

Ra
Lill - 5 M. - Washington Co.

B-666
Leeds, Ut 84746
Sept 2, 1978

ACT/053/002

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 West No Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah



Dear Sir:

Here is a photostatic copy of a letter we received. I own a building lot on the Silver Reef, and my husband & I both object to any strip mining or poor procedures which would de-value our land & make the whole area one big mess. Please tell us why these companies are allowed to do this. Is there no law preventing pollution that can restrain this? I surely hope so. Please enforce both Companies to halt this immediately. Please let us know what you are going to do.

Sincerely,

Allyn & Raymond Brown
Box 666
Leeds, Ut 84746

Bennett Petroleum Corporation
1776 Lincoln Street, Suite 808
Denver, Colorado 80203

August 30, 1978

Bennett Petroleum Corporation today filed a protest with the Utah Oil, Gas, and Mining Board against the proposed mining development by 5M, Inc., in the Silver Reef area in Washington County, Utah. In the document filed by Allen, Thompson & Hughes, Bennett Petroleum Corporation's legal counsel, several grounds for objection were stated. The most significant is that Bennett Petroleum Corporation and 5M, Inc. have conflicting mining claims in the Silver Reef area. Each party contends the other's claims are invalid.

Bennett Petroleum Corporation also objected to the 5M, Inc. assertion of exclusive rights to roads in the area. Many of these roads, Bennett Petroleum Corporation claims, have been maintained by the County and used by the public for years. 5M, Inc. proposes to close these roads to the public and other miners.

Recently 5M, Inc. filed plans with the Utah Oil, Gas, and Mining Board. The 5M, Inc. operation will cover 1,352 acres of land and include extraction of copper, silver, uranium and vanadium. The large scale proposals include strip mining as well as underground tunnelling. Twelve strip mining areas, up to 120 feet deep, are included in the plans. Some of the strip mining would take place on the White (or Silver) Reef itself. Underground mining will occur in other areas in which 5M, Inc. owns mineral rights, underneath private homes in the prestigious Silver Reef Subdivision and underneath the old Wells Fargo Building, recently purchased by Washington County for use as an historical and recreational site. One of Bennett Petroleum Corporation's objections states that these landowners have never had formal notice of the development. Some of the homeowners are apparently unaware that minerals under their homes are claimed by 5M, Inc.

In addition to pits for extracting ore, there will be pits for processing ore. The processing pits will extend nearly a mile along the White Reef and will hold over 4 1/2 million tons of ore. The smallest pit will cover 4 acres and be 50 feet deep. Strong sulphuric acid will be sprayed at 800 gallons per minute over the ore, trickle through it, and drain into collecting ditches. The acid will leach out the valuable minerals in the ore. Bennett Petroleum Corporation has objected to this phase of the operation because of the possibility of air and water pollution through the spraying and drainage of acid. The leach pits lie in the natural drainage course of 180 acres of land. Heavy rains could cause an overflow and the acid solution could escape into privately owned land to the south. An escape of acid, or percolation of acid into the ground beneath the heaps of ore could cause well contamination and would radically change the natural alkalinity of the soil. Further, Bennett Petroleum Corporation objected to plans to bury or inject used acid into the ground.

Another principal objection of Bennett Petroleum Corporation is the dramatic visual deterioration development will cause. The large White Reef which gave the area its name may be dramatically changed.

Bennett Petroleum Corporation anticipated that other parties would protest the proposed action. However, publicity of the proposal has been minimal. The only notice was published one day in each of the county newspapers. Until September 2, 1978, other parties who wish to protest the 5M, Inc. proposals may do so by writing to the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, 1588 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

